



The **Federterme General Council**, which met in Rome on February 24, 2020,

conscious

of the complex situation following the Coronavirus epidemic outbreak taking place in the Country;

considered

that no COVID-19 infection episode happened in Thermal structures;

considered

that the spas are health facilities under medical surveillance and, as such, they have promptly implemented all the necessary preventive measures to protect the guests and the employees, being potentially able to represent important outposts of primary prevention;

considered

the recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the decrees of the Italian Ministry of Health and the decrees of the local health Authorities aimed at containing the risks of epidemic spreading;

considered

the nature of balneotherapies, of the thermal means and the most frequent type of patients;

heard

the Scientific Coordinator of *ForST*, Foundation for Thermal Scientific Research, prof. Marco Vitale;

deliberates

to recommend to the associated spas operating in Italy, in the absence of different definitive indications issued by the Institutions concerning the applicability of the above-mentioned decrees to the spas, to comply with the following prescriptions by notifying them to the local health Authorities, especially for those activities that involve a significant concentration of users, considering however these indications as additional to the directives issued or that will be issued by national and local Authorities:

- a) Logistic reconsideration of waiting rooms, outpatient planning for individual therapies and swimming pools, aimed at minimizing contacts between individuals;
- b) Anamnestic deepening on acceptance visit for respiratory pathologies and recent movements in areas at risk of contagion;
- c) Adequate training of the staff;
- d) Temporary suspension of collective inhalation treatments (nebulizations and pulverizations); assessment by the spa Health Director of any suspension of activities in non-isolated areas with aerosol / nebulization production, based on the structural characteristics of the department and the turnout of patients;
- e) Logistic reconsideration of individual therapies (e.g. baths and muds, rehabilitation) with implementation of all precautionary measures in the staff / patient contact.

It is also recommended to expose the following rules, clearly visible to patients, employees, caregivers and anyone in the establishments:

1. Do not drink from the same bottle / glass, always using disposable glasses or a nominal or personalized bottle, and do not exchange items with others (towels, bathrobes, etc.).
2. Avoid consuming food in common or not specifically-designed areas
3. Store personal items and clothing in your bags
4. Immediate disposal of paper tissues or other used materials (plasters, bandages, etc.) in the appropriate containers
5. Wash your hands thoroughly as often as possible: hand washing and disinfection are decisive to prevent infection. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 40 seconds and then, after rinsing them thoroughly, they should be dried with a disposable towel or using the appropriate electric towels;
6. Disinfect hands with virucidal antiseptic gel (e.g. 60% alcohol-based hand disinfectants)
7. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

8. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue - preferably disposable - or with your arm, but not with your hand, if you cough or sneeze.
9. Air the premises as often as possible.
10. Periodically disinfect tables, furniture, floors, taps, showers and toilets with disinfectant solutions based on bleach or chlorine, solvents, 75% ethanol.
11. Invite people who experience symptoms of an ongoing respiratory infection and / or fever to stop treatment or work and leave the premises immediately and notify the medical manager or call the toll free number 1500 of the Ministry of Health operating 24 hours a day.